AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A joint enhancing composition adapted for oral administration, wherein said composition consists essentially of ~~at least two substances selected from the group consisting of~~ octacosanol (defatted wheat germ oil), ~~elecampane root (*Inula* sp.),~~ quercetin, ~~L-cysteine, vitamin B1 (thiamin HCl), white oak bark (*Quercus alba*),~~ vitamin B5, *Aloe vera* ~~gel, black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), androstenedione,~~ oat straw (*Avena sativa*), oat straw (*Avena sativa*) powder, L-methionine, ~~shitake mushroom (*Lentius elodes*),~~ bromelain, horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), and borage oil (*Borago officianalis*), and~~,~~ optionally~~:~~

i) one or more substances selected from elecampane root (*Inula* sp.), L-cysteine, vitamin B1 (thiamin HCl), white oak bark (*Quercus alba*), *Aloe vera* gel, black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), androstenedione, shitake mushroom (*Lentius elodes*), and

ii) one or more agents selected from the group consisting of an analgesic, an antibiotic, an antiviral, an anti-inflammatory, an anesthetic, an enzyme, and an immunosuppressive agent.

2-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 19, wherein said composition consists essentially of octacosanol (defatted wheat germ oil), elecampane root (*Inula* sp.), quercetin, L-cysteine, vitamin B1 (thiamin HCl), white oak bark (*Quercus alba*), vitamin B5, *Aloe vera* gel, black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), androstenedione, oat straw (*Avena sativa*), oat straw (*Avena sativa*) powder, L-methionine, shitake mushroom (*Lentius elodes*), bromelain, horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), and borage oil (*Borago officianalis*) and optionally one or more said agents selected from the group consisting of an analgesic, an antibiotic, an antiviral, an anti-inflammatory, an anesthetic, an enzyme, and an immunosuppressive agent.

11. (Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, consisting essentially of octacosanol (defatted wheat germ oil), oat straw (*Avena sativa*) SE, oat straw (*Avena sativa*) powder, bromelain, vitamin B5, L-methionine, quercetin, horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), and borage oil (*Borago officianalis*).

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 11, wherein ~~consisting of~~:

~~from 15 to 25 mg of~~ said oat straw (*Avena sativa*) is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 15 to 25 mg,

~~from 150 to 170 mg of~~ said oat straw (*Avena sativa*) powder is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 150 to 170 mg,

~~from 90 to 110 mg of~~ said bromelain (2400 GDU) is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 90 to 110 mg,

~~from 30 to 40 mg of~~ said vitamin B5 is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 30 to 40 mg,

~~from 25 to 40 mg of~~ said L-methionine is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 25 to 40 mg,

~~from 60 to 75 mg of~~ said quercetin is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 60 to 75 mg,

from 25 to 40 mg of said horsetail SE silicic acid is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 60 to 75 mg, and

~~from 25 to 40 mg~~ said borage oil powder is present in said composition in an amount in the range of 25 to 40 mg.

13. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 12, wherein ~~consisting essentially of~~:

~~21.5 mg of~~ said oat straw (*Avena sativa*) is present in said composition in an amount of,

~~160.0 mg of~~ said oat straw (*Avena sativa*) powder is present in said composition in an amount of 160.0 mg,

~~100.0 mg of~~ said bromelain (2400 GDU) is present in said composition in an amount of 100.0 mg,

~~35.0 mg of~~ said vitamin B5 is present in said composition in an amount of 35.0 mg,

~~33.0 mg of~~ said L-methionine is present in said composition in an amount of 33.0 mg,

~~66.0 mg of~~ said quercetin is present in said composition in an amount of 66.0 mg,

~~33.0 mg of~~ said horsetail SE silicic acid is present in said composition in an amount of 33.0 mg, and

~~33.0 mg of~~ said borage oil powder is present in said composition in an amount of 33.0 mg.

14. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 12, wherein said oat straw SE is in an initial 10:1 ratio.

15. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1~~12~~, wherein said horsetail is ~~the initial concentration of said~~ horsetail SE silicic acid, which is present in said composition at a concentration of 1.5-3.0 %.

16. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1~~12~~, wherein said borage oil powder is in gamma lipoic acid (GLA).

17. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1~~12~~, ~~wherein the initial concentration of~~ said borage oil powder is present in said composition at a concentration of 6.6%.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said anti-inflammatory is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug or a corticosteroid.

21. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 20, wherein said corticosteroid is triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluticasone, or beclomethasone.

22. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent is ketoprofen, auranofin, naproxen, acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, phenylbutazone, indomethacin, sulindac, diclofenac, paracetamol, diflunisal, Celecoxib, or Rofecoxib.

23. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said antibiotic is clindamycin, minocycline, erythromycin, probenecid, or moxifloxacin.

24. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said anti-fungal agent is nystatin or Amphotericin B.

25. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said anti-viral agent is acyclovir, penciclovir, valacyclovir, ganciclovir, 1,-D-ribofuranosyl-1,2,4-triazole-3 carboxamide, 9->2-hydroxy-ethoxy methylguanine, adamantanamine, 5-iodo-2'-deoxyuridine, trifluorothymidine, interferon, or adenine arabinoside.

26. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said analgesic is procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, p-buthylaminobenzoic acid 2-(diethylamino) ethyl ester HCl, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dyclonine, morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone.

27. (Withdrawn) The joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said agent is hyaluronic acid, methotrexate, Gold (Myocrisin), Sulphasalazine, Chloroquine, glucosamine, or chondroitin

28. (Withdrawn) A method of lubricating a joint in a mammal by administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is adapted for oral administration and increases the endogenous expression of lubricin by at least 10% relative to an untreated control mammal not administered said composition.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein said joint is an articulating joint.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said articular joint is a knee, hip, ankle, shoulder, or elbow.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein said mammal is a human, a dog, or a horse.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein said increase in endogenous expression of lubricin is in synovial cells of said joint.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein said cells are fibroblasts.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of treating, reducing, or preventing a degenerative joint disorder by administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of the joint enhancing composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is adapted for oral administration and increases the endogenous expression of lubricin by at least 10% relative to an untreated control mammal not administered said composition.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein said disorder is osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, blunt trauma, synovitis, traumatic effusion, lupus, scleroderma, chondromalacia patellae, infectious arthritis, bursitis, tendinitis, fibrositis fibromyositis, or polymyositis

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said increase in endogenous expression of lubricin is in synovial cells of said joint.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein said cells are fibroblasts

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein a second therapeutic agent is administered to said mammal.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein said second therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of analgesics, antibiotics, antivirals, anti-inflammatories, anesthetics, enzymes, and immunosuppressive agents.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said anti-inflammatory is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug or a corticosteroid.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein said corticosteroid is triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluticasone, or beclomethasone.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent is ketoprofen, auranofin, naproxen, acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, phenylbutazone, indomethacin, sulindac, diclofenac, paracetamol, diflunisal, Celecoxib, or Rofecoxib.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said antibiotic is clindamycin, minocycline, erythromycin, probenecid, or moxifloxacin.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said wherein said anti-fungal agent is nystatin or Amphotericin B.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said anti-viral agent is acyclovir, penciclovir, valacyclovir, ganciclovir, 1,-D-ribofuranosyl-1,2,4-triazole-3 carboxamide, 9->2-hydroxy-ethoxy methylguanine, adamantanamine, 5-iodo-2'-deoxyuridine, trifluorothymidine, interferon, or adenine arabinoside.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said analgesic is procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, p-buthylaminobenzoic acid 2-(diethylamino) ethyl ester HCl, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dyclonine, morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein said second therapeutic agent is hyaluronic acid, methotrexate, Gold (Myocrisin), Sulphasalazine, Chloroquine, glucosamine, or chondroitin.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein said composition and said second therapeutic are administered in the same formulation.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein said composition and said second therapeutic are administered in different formulations.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition and said second therapeutic are administered within 14 days of each other.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein said composition and said second therapeutic are administered within 24 hours of each other.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein said mammal is a human.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein said mammal is a dog.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein said degenerative joint disorder is canine arthritis or canine hip dysplasia.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein said mammal is a horse.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, wherein said degenerative joint disorder is equine degenerative joint disease.